

REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 9-19, and 31-32 are pending in the application. Claims 1-12, and 14-30 have been cancelled. Claim 13 was amended to be rewritten in independent form to overcome the Examiner's objections. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection(s) in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Raden ('178). Claims 1, 2, 12 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Grant-Acquah ('919). Claims 3, 4, 5, 16, 17, 18, 31 and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Grant-Acquah ('919), further in view of Itoh ('733). Claims 6, 7, 15 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Raden ('178) in view of Inamura ('084). Claims 9, 10 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Raden ('178) in view of Itoh ('733) and further in view of Inamura ('084).

Claims 1-12 and 14-19 have been cancelled herewith. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Claim 13 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but was considered allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations

of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 13 has been amended herewith accordingly. Applicants respectfully request that this claim now be passed to allowance.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (734) 354-5445.

Respectfully submitted,

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